



14 September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to inform you of the Cognitive Abilities Tests (CATs) which will be taking place on allocated days w/b 21<sup>st</sup> September. However, before I do I wanted to share a few words to say how proud and impressed I've been with the way our Year 7 students have joined St Laurence school. The support and reassurance you have given from home has made all the difference in supporting a smooth and successful transition from Year 6 to 7. For many students it will take several weeks still to settle into the routine, in their new surroundings and make new friends but everyone has made a fantastic first impression and it has been lovely to finally connect names to faces - well done Year 7!

**CATs w/b 21<sup>st</sup> September (Week B)**

The Year 7 students will be sitting three CATs (Cognitive Abilities Tests) instead of their timetabled Period 1 & 3 lessons on the allocated days below.

Due to our year group zones, the tests will not take place in computer rooms but will be completed in the classroom using question and answer booklets. Please ensure your child has a pencil and a rubber for these tests. The timetabled class teacher will be setting up and invigilating the tests in exam conditions. Each test has sample questions to begin, to ensure the students understand the format and this allows for any questions.

**Timetable for Learning Groups 1-4**

<b>Week B</b>	<b>7LG1</b>	<b>7LG2</b>	<b>7LG3</b>	<b>7LG4</b>
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> Period 1	Miss Hancock (Music) Room A1	Mr Westley (English) Room A2	Mrs Rhodes (PSHE) Room A3	Miss Reinfelder (German) Room A4
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> Period 3	Miss Letts (Science) Room A1	Mrs Chantry (Geography) Room A2	Mr Daniels (Science) Room A3	Mr Garty (Science) Room A4
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Period 1	Mr White (Drama) Room A1	Mr Peters (Computing) Room A2	Mrs White (English) Room A3	Mrs Scott (English) Room A4



**Timetable for Learning Groups 5-8**

Week B	7LG5	7LG6	7LG7	7LG8
Tuesday 22nd Period 1	Mr Mainwaring (English) Room A5	Mr Moody (Maths) Room F1	Mrs Barber (German) Room F5	Mr Morris (Computing) Room F6
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Period 3	Mrs Kendall (PSHE) Room A5	Mrs Christie (Art) Room F1	Mrs Howsam (PSHE) Room F5	Mrs Violet (Science) Room F6
Thursday 24th Period 1	Miss Wadsworth (Geography) Room A5	Ms Green (English) Room F1	Miss Letts (Science) Room F5	Mrs Violet (Science) Room F6

There is no revision or preparation for these tests. CATs are not testing student’s knowledge and understanding, they are designed to assess a student’s ability through three different areas: verbal (thinking with words); quantitative (thinking with numbers) and non-verbal (thinking with shapes and space). CATs provide information on a student’s potential, what they could achieve and how they learn best.

**Please note:**

- that access arrangements such as extra time/a reader are **not** permissible in CATs.
- the instructions are read out to the whole class by the teacher (including practice questions) but the teacher **cannot** read out the test questions.
- Any significant discrepancies that are noted between the different types of CAT test will be followed up. This is standard practice at St Laurence. In addition, there will be literacy screening for all students in Year 7 later in the year.

This year, we do not have the KS2 SAT test results to generate our ‘Expectation of Progress’ five years trajectory report but we do have Teacher Assessments, from the Year 6 teacher, as part of the transition information we ask for. Therefore, we shall be using the Teacher Assessment and CATs to generate a starting point on our assessment grid and the ‘Expectation of Progress’ report, which you will receive in Term 2.

Information regarding Curriculum and Assessment can be found under ‘School life – Key Stage 3’ on our school website.

Kind regards

*K Rhodes*

Mrs K Rhodes  
Director of Learning and Progress KS3